

4th December 2020

Newsletter – week 13



Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will be aware from my letter earlier in the week, unfortunately we had a positive case of COVID-19 in school. Through our track and trace and seating plans, it meant we had to send home a small cohort of our Year 11 students. We were extremely disappointed to have to do this, but we have to follow the very clear and strict Government guidelines at all times. The students had just started their written mock exams and it also meant that some of our Year 11 will have missed 6 weeks of school in the Autumn term alone. I know how anxious many students and parents are about this and the impact it is having. Needless to say, we are doing all that we can to ensure that students do get to sit their mock exams either remotely or in 'catch up' exams upon their return.

This week there were extra measures to boost fairness and to support students ahead of next summer's exams and assessments announced by the Secretary of State. Students sitting exams and other assessments next year will benefit from a package of exceptional measures to make them as fair as possible and manage the disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19). There is more detail being released slowly but a snap shot of these are;

- A three week delay to exams to free up extra teaching time which was announced in October
- More generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged
- Students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision
- Exam aids, for example formula sheets, provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise
- Additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation
- A new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak on students across the country.

Information has also been released that will support students who miss an exam or a number of papers in a subject because they have to self-isolate. A 'special consideration' process will be applied as well a single contingency paper in a subject towards the end of the exam season to ensure that every student has a fair and equal opportunity. It is clear that the months ahead may be a little bumpy, but making sure our students get the same chance as everyone else is our priority.



POWERED BY



Principal: Russell Denial

Yesterday evening we held our first 'virtual' Parents' Evening for the 6th Form. The feedback we have received from some parents already is extremely positive. Appointments were succinct and precise and allowed the entire evening event run completely to time. That is probably the first time we can say that about any parents evening!

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote about Henry Hawley, one of our Year 7 students who led a whole school assembly on Diabetes Type 1, and how he was learning to live this. We talked about some of the differences between Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes and the awful effect some foods has on our blood sugar. I am really pleased to say that Henry made it into the Bucks Free Press! What an absolute star.

I have been approached this week by our neighbours from Tunmer's End who have asked me to remind parents that this is private property and should not be used by any parents either picking up, or dropping off their children in the morning and afternoon. Thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

We are now only two weeks away from the end of term and the start of the Christmas Holiday. Please stay safe and remember to follow the rules. Here's hoping that the two week break will help us all!

Yours faithfully,



Mr R Denial
Principal

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